

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-22 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 12-14, and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101 and § 112.

Claims 1-5, 8-14, and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0039594). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. and Internet Explorer, as taught by McFedries (1997). McFedries is cited for allegedly disclosing that the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement contains control data for specifying whether or not to display a window that can open subsequently to a preceding window depending on a user response to the preceding window.

Independent claims 1, 10, 12-14, and 16 have been amended to recite that:

(1) the information processing system includes a plurality of information devices that execute a policy command action concerning the same job;

(2) the stencil for the job definition statement defines a global environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as lower-level elements for a root policy rule; and

(3) each policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for the global environment variable.

Support for these features can be found, for example, in the present specification at pages 13-14.

Independent claims 1, 10, 12-14, and 16 as amended are patentable over Park et al. because, for instance, Park et al. does not teach or suggest: (1) a plurality of information devices execute a policy command concerning the same job; (2) the stencil for the job definition statement defines a global environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as lower-level elements for a root policy rule; and (3) each policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for the global environment variable.

Park et al. merely teaches that tasks may be performed in serial order or parallel (paragraph [0010]), workstations can be configured to develop content (paragraph [0019]), a "job" is a set of interdependent tasks (paragraph [0034]), and if a workflow template file contains more than one <template_script> element, all variables, functions, and libraries set in one element are preferably available to others (paragraph [0057]). Neither Park et al. nor McFedries teach or suggest the recited features in the amended independent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 10, 12-14, and 16, and claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, and 17-22 depending therefrom, are patentable over Park et al. and McFedries.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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